

# *City of Alexandria, Virginia*

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## **MEMORANDUM**

DATE: OCTOBER 2, 2013

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: T&ES STAFF

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM # 7 - STAFF UPDATES

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**ISSUE:** Staff update to Transportation Commission on various ongoing projects

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Commission receive the staff update.

### **A. POTOMAC YARD METRORAIL STATION**

The Potomac Yard Metro project is an infill Metrorail station located between the National Airport and Braddock Road Metrorail stations on the Blue and Yellow lines in the vicinity of the Potomac Yard Development.

The project team is working on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which analyzes the socioeconomic, environmental, and transportation impacts of a no build and three build alternatives. The DEIS will address key environmental considerations, including air quality and climate change, transportation and land use, visual resources, parklands, historic and cultural resources, noise, vibration, wetlands and habitats, and temporary construction impacts.

The project team is currently investigating several options to mitigate impacts identified during the DEIS analysis. The DEIS will be released once it has been determined which mitigation options are viable. Once the DEIS is released, it will be available for review and public comment. The release of the DEIS will be followed by several Community Education and Discussion Workshops, as well as a public hearing.

For more information on the project, please visit [www.alexandriava.gov/potomacyard](http://www.alexandriava.gov/potomacyard).

### **B. CRYSTAL CITY/POTOMAC YARD (ROUTE 1) TRANSITWAY**

During the first round of TIGER grants, the City received \$8.5 million to design and construct the Route 1 Transitway between Monroe Avenue and East Glebe Road. The City compiled additional grant funding and \$5.2 million in local funding to design/construct various elements of the Transitway project. The total cost of the Transitway including vehicles is approximately \$20 million.

Transitway construction began in July 2012. Substantial completion of the runningway construction is anticipated by Winter 2013/2014. Heavy and hazardous materials have been found on-site during excavation. The contractor is working with the City to dispose of the materials correctly.

Among other design elements that will ensure the Transitway is a premier facility, the City is including colored concrete in the runningway at Transitway stations. The contractor began pouring colored concrete in April 2013 and pours have now been completed. To ensure that the dual colored concrete will remain unmarred, these sections will be covered with plastic and sand until the Transitway opens.

The contractor will continue storm drain utility work from Maskell to East Glebe Road. Traffic will be shifted at the north end of the project so that roadway widening and storm drain work can continue from Hume to East Glebe. Transitway concrete at the south end of the project will be completed this month. Signal and lighting work is ongoing.

For more information on the Route 1 Transitway project please see visit:

<http://www.alexandriava.gov/tes/info/default.aspx?id=58644>

### **C. CAPITAL BIKESHARE**

Eight new Capital Bikeshare stations will be added in the Del Ray, Carlyle, and Old Town areas in the winter of 2013-2014. The new station locations will be selected from locations suggested by the public, and preferences shown on the interactive crowdsourcing map. In 2013, staff attended over 5 community meetings to gain input from residents on the draft expansion map, and those meetings also provided the opportunity to receive suggestions on further expansion planned for next fiscal year.

Suggested locations will be evaluated using criteria including connectivity to transit to expand between metrorail stations, mixed-use activity centers, potential bicycle activity, proximity to other Capital Bikeshare stations, as well technical considerations. Some technical considerations include direct sunlight, at least 11' X 32' of space, no more than a quarter mile from another station, sidewalk pedestrian clearance, flat ground and utility clearance. Staff will aim to limit any parking removal with the installation of the stations.

Staff will also provide an update to the City Council on the first year of bikeshare operations in Alexandria in the fall of 2013. For more information on the Capital Bikeshare, please visit: <http://www.alexandriava.gov/localmotion/info/default.aspx?id=55082>